

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing ~~having comprising:~~
an outer ~~ring,~~ ring;
an inner ~~ring,~~ ring; and
a plurality of rolling elements, wherein at least one of ~~said the members,~~ the outer ring, inner ring and rolling ~~elements,~~ elements has a nitrogen rich layer, said at least one of said outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements is made of SUJ2 steel as defined by Japanese Industrial Standard, and the a grain size number defined by Japanese Industrial Standard of austenite crystal grains in said nitrogen rich layer is in the range exceeding the number greater than 10.
2. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 1, wherein ~~the a~~ nitrogen content in the said nitrogen rich layer is in the range of 0.1 - 0.7%.
3. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said ~~member~~ at least one of said outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements is a raceway ring, and said nitrogen content is ~~its value~~ a nitrogen content measured in the a 50 μ m-deep layer of ~~the a~~ raceway surface after grinding.
4. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 1, wherein ~~the a~~ hardness in said nitrogen rich layer is not less than Hv 700.
5. **(Original)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the hardness is within the range of Hv 720 - Hv 800.
6. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said ~~member~~ at least one of said outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements is a raceway ring and said hardness is a value in ~~the a~~ 50 μ m-deep layer of ~~the a~~ raceway surface after grinding.
7. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 1, wherein ~~the a~~ retained austenite content in the said nitrogen rich layer is in the range of 11 - 25%.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ a nitrogen content in ~~the~~ said nitrogen rich layer is in the range of 0.1 - 0.7%.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said ~~member~~ at least one of said outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements is a raceway ring and said nitrogen content is ~~its value~~ a nitrogen content measured in ~~the~~ a 50 μ m-deep layer of ~~the~~ a raceway surface after grinding.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said ~~member~~ at least one of said outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements is a raceway ring and said hardness is a value in ~~the~~ a 50 μ m-deep layer of ~~the~~ a raceway surface after grinding.